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Cosponsor Legislation to Recognize TRUE Unemployment

Dear Colleague:

Did you know that the current unemployment measure (U-3) does not include individuals who give up looking for work?

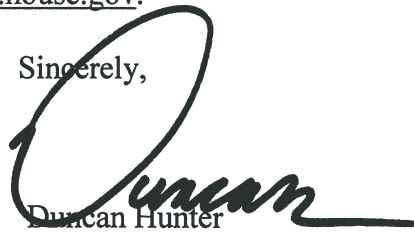
The fact is, individuals who stop looking for work *should* be counted in the primary unemployment figure. In most cases, these persons are able and willing to work, but have become too discouraged to continue looking.

When factoring in this group, the national unemployment rate increases from 7.8 to 9.4 percent as of December 2012, providing a much clearer representation of unemployment nationwide. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) already measures this statistic, and it is provided through the U-5 calculation.

To create a more accurate and reliable account of true unemployment, last Congress, I introduced the **Real Unemployment Calculation Act**, requiring that the U-5 measure be treated as the primary measure of unemployment by the federal government. This would help ensure that we do not ignore a subset of Americans who are not working.

The next official unemployment figures will be released by BLS on Friday, February 1. I hope you will join me as I reintroduce the bill in an effort to provide a true sense of the real unemployment situation. To become an original cosponsor, please contact my staff member, Reed Linsk, at 5-5672 or reed.linsk@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress